

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for processing medically relevant data objects including at least one of image data and metadata, comprising:

a first electronic data processing device for viewing and editing the data objects, the first electronic data processing device including,

a data store for storing the data objects, and

a first interface for outputting data objects, and

a second electronic data processing device for presenting and altering data from data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks, the second electronic data processing device including,

a mask memory for storing the report masks, and

a second interface for receiving the data objects,

wherein the first electronic data processing device uses firmly prescribed data formats, to store, view and edit the data objects,

the second electronic data processing device uses report masks that are generated and locally altered by a user of the second electronic data processing device to present and alter data objects in a report context,

the interfaces of the first and second electronic data processing devices are connected to one another for transfer of data objects from the first electronic data processing device to the second electronic data processing device and

transfer data belonging to data objects from the second electronic data processing device to the first electronic data processing device; ~~and~~

~~wherein~~ data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first electronic data processing device via the interconnected interfaces, are stored in the data store; and

at least one of the interfaces of the first and second electronic data processing devices includes a data switching device, the data switching device having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, and the data switching device configured to ascertain the type of a data object transferred via the interface, compare the ascertained type with the content of the association memory and associate a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

2. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second electronic data processing device stores report masks, the report masks being at least one of generated and altered by the user, in the mask memory.

3. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second electronic data processing device uses report masks, the report masks being generated and altered by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for the user to edit data from data objects.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein content of user-edited data is checked by the data switching device,

and the checked data are stored by the first electronic data processing device only on the basis of the result of the check.

7. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first electronic data processing device is for authenticating all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents the data objects for later reconstruction.

8. (Currently Amended) A distributed method for processing medically relevant data objects, the data objects including at least one of image data and metadata, with a first component for at least one of viewing, editing and storing the data objects and with a second component for presenting data from the data objects, the method comprising:

using prescribed data formats in the first component to at least one of store, view and edit the data objects; and

using report masks in the second component, the report masks being generated and locally altered by a user of the second component to present and alter the data objects in a report context,

wherein the data objects are transferred from the first component to the second component, the user of the second component uses the report masks to edit data from the transferred data objects; and

wherein data belonging to the data objects is transferred from the second component to the first component and the first component stores data objects with user-edited data transferred to the first component in a data store; and

wherein a data switching component is provided for ascertaining the type of the data object transferred from the first component to the second component, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of an association

memory containing information about the association between data object types and report masks, and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

9. (Previously Presented) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second component stores report masks, the report masks being at least one of generated and altered by the user, in a mask memory.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein content of user-edited data belonging to data objects is checked, and the user-edited data are stored by the first component only on the basis of the result of this check.

14. (Previously Presented) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first component authenticates all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents the data objects so that the data objects can be subsequently reconstructed.

15. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second electronic data processing device uses report masks, the report masks being generated and locally altered by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for the user to edit data from data objects.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein content of user-edited data is checked, and the checked data are stored by the first data processing device only on the basis of the result of the check.

19. (Original) The distributed method of claim 8, wherein the second component is used to present data from the data objects in medically relevant reports using the report masks.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for processing medically relevant data objects including at least one of image data and metadata, the data processing system comprising:

first electronic data processing means for viewing and editing the data objects, the first electronic data processing means including,

storage means for storing the data objects, and

first interfacing means for outputting data objects;

a second electronic data processing means for presenting and altering data from data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks, the second electronic data processing means including,

memory means for storing the report masks, and

second interfacing means for receiving the data objects,

wherein the first electronic data processing means uses firmly prescribed data formats, to store, view and edit the data objects,

the second electronic data processing means uses report masks, the report masks being generated and locally altered by a user of the second

electronic data processing means to present and alter data objects in a report context even without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, and

the interfacing means of the first electronic data processing means and second electronic data processing means are connected to one another ~~for transfer of~~ to transfer data objects from the first electronic data processing means to the second electronic data processing means and the interfacing means transfer data belonging to data objects from the second electronic data processing means to the first electronic data processing means, and

wherein data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first electronic data processing means via the interfacing means, are stored in the storage means, and

wherein at least one of the interfacing means includes a data switching means, the data switching means having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred via the interfacing means, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of the association memory and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

24. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second electronic data processing means stores report masks, the report masks being at least one of generated and altered by the user, in the memory means.

25. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second electronic data processing means uses report masks,

the report masks being generated and altered by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for the user to edit data from data objects.

26. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least one of the interfacing means includes data switching means, the data switching means having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred via the interface means, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of the association memory and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein content of user-edited data is checked, and the checked data are stored by the first electronic data processing means only on the basis of the result of the check.

29. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first electronic data processing means is for authenticating all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents the data objects for later reconstruction.

\*\*\* END CLAIM LISTING \*\*\*